



MARINE RESCUE NSW

Calling for help in a boating emergency



Calling for help

If your boat and the people on board are in grave and imminent danger and you require immediate assistance, use every means at your disposal to call for help.

Use your radio

Marine Rescue NSW radio bases monitor radio calls on VHF and 27MHz. Other vessels with their radio on may be closer and able to help more quickly than rescue crews.

- Select VHF Ch. 16 or 27 MHz Ch. 88
- Say the word MAYDAY three times
- Give your exact position. If possible, use your GPS (or smart phone) to read out the latitude and longitude. (See "Know where you are" below)
- Tell us what is wrong (sinking, on fire, etc)
- Tell us how many people you have on board
- Describe your boat (eg 6m runabout, red hull, black bimini, etc)
- Tell us anything else we should know (boat rego, mobile number, abandoning ship, switching on EPIRB etc)

Use your mobile phone as well

Call 000 and ask for Police. The operator will want your position, what is the emergency, number of people of board, description of your boat.

Activate your EPIRB

A GPS equipped 406MHz EPIRB has location accuracy of 120 metres. Non-GPS EPIRBs have a location accuracy of 5km.

Know where you are

Rescuers need your position to find you quickly. Read it from your GPS. If you don't have on-board GPS, check your smart phone. Most have GPS but don't wait until you're in danger before you find out. Otherwise, refer to your charts or look for landmarks if close enough to shore.



- Emergency Search and Rescue
- Marine Radio Communications
- Boating Safety Education

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Your local unit